IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Original) A thunderbolt disaster protecting apparatus comprising:

a thunderbolt attack detecting circuit for determining whether or not any thunderbolt is approaching by detecting a thunderbolt signal; and

a switching mechanism for changing over to a normal condition in which a protection object device is connected to an electric path or a thunderbolt resisting condition in which the protection object device is separated from the electric path, wherein

said thunderbolt attack detecting circuit and said switching mechanism obtain a control power supply from said electric path and said thunderbolt attack detecting circuit changes over said switching mechanism to said normal condition at the time of normal condition and when any thunderbolt is approaching, changes over said switching mechanism to said thunderbolt resisting condition, and said thunderbolt disaster protecting apparatus further comprising a power interruption restoration circuit which after said control power supply is interrupted and then the power interruption is restored, determines whether or not any thunderbolt is approaching in a predetermined time interval and changes over said switching mechanism to said thunderbolt resisting condition if a thunderbolt is approaching and to said normal condition if the condition is normal.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The thunderbolt disaster protecting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said switching mechanism can ~~be~~ mechanically maintain[ed] ~~mechanically~~ the normal condition or the thunderbolt resisting condition present at [of] the time of change-over even in non-voltage condition.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) A thunderbolt disaster protecting apparatus comprising:

a thunderbolt resisting transformer;

a thunderbolt attack detecting circuit for determining whether or not any thunderbolt is approaching by detecting a thunderbolt signal; and

a switching mechanism for changing over to the normal condition in which a protection object device is connected to an electric path or to the thunderbolt resisting condition in which said protection object device is connected to the electric path through said thunderbolt resisting transformer, wherein

said thunderbolt attack detecting circuit and said switching mechanism obtain a control power supply from said electric path and said thunderbolt attack detecting circuit changes over said switching mechanism to said normal condition at the time of normal condition and when any thunderbolt is approaching, changes over said switching mechanism to said thunderbolt resisting condition, and

wherein when said switching mechanism is in said normal condition, said thunderbolt resisting transformer is disconnected from said electric path to eliminate power consumption by said thunderbolt resisting transformer.

Claim 4 (Original) The thunderbolt disaster protecting apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said thunderbolt attack detecting circuit further comprises a power interruption restoration circuit which after said control power supply is interrupted and then the power interruption is restored, determines whether or not any thunderbolt is approaching in a predetermined time interval and changes over said switching mechanism to said thunderbolt resisting condition if a thunderbolt is approaching and to said normal condition if the condition is normal.

Claim 5 (New) The thunderbolt disaster protecting apparatus according to claims 1 or 3, wherein when a lightning surge occurs after said power interruption, said protection object device remains protected.